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Date of Signature and Deposit: Oct. 19, 2006

Julie Zavoral

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## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Steven M. Akkala, et al.  
App. No.: 10/613,291  
Art Unit: 3635  
Examiner: Chi Q. Nguyen  
Filed: July 2, 2003  
Attorney Docket: 690296.00013 (Formerly 009801-0004)  
Confirmation No.: 6705  
Title: ACCESS HATCH COVER ASSEMBLY WITH LIFT-ASSIST ASSEMBLY AND METHOD THEREFOR

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### RESPONSE TO NON-FINAL OFFICE ACTION

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Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner For Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This is in response to the Office Action mailed June 19, 2006. Please reconsider this application in view of the Remarks presented herein.

**Listing of Claims** are on pp. 2-6.

**Remarks** in support of patentability begin on page 7 of this communication.